

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data management system, comprising:

a server system comprising:

a storage system for storing data;

an information system for storing information on data managed

by said data management system; and

a plurality of interfaces for accessing said server system via a public network; and

a data forwarding unit for forwarding data to said server system via the public network,

wherein, when said data forwarding unit receives data, said data forwarding unit sends identification information on the received data to said information system via one of said plurality of interfaces selected by said data forwarding unit in accordance with a set of predetermined rules,

wherein, in response to receiving identification information from said data forwarding unit, said information system sends communication information for one of said plurality of interfaces selected by said information system in accordance with a set of predetermined rules to said data forwarding unit, and

wherein, using the communication information, said data forwarding unit forwards the received data to said storage system for storage via the interface selected by said information system.

2. A data management system according to Claim 1, said plurality of interfaces comprising:

a plurality of first interfaces for accessing said information system via the public network; and

a plurality of second interfaces for accessing said storage system via the public network,

wherein the interface selected by said data forwarding unit is one of said plurality of first interfaces, and the interface selected by said information system is one of said plurality of second interfaces.

3. A data management system according to Claim 2, wherein said plurality of first interfaces are redundant, and said plurality of second interfaces are redundant.

4. A data management system according to Claim 1, wherein said information system compares the identification information received from said data forwarding unit with the stored information on data managed by said data management system, and sends the communication information for one of said plurality of interfaces if the received identification information corresponds with the stored information on managed data.

5. A data management system according to Claim 4, wherein if the identification information received from said data forwarding unit does not correspond with the stored information on managed data, said data forwarding unit deletes the received data.

6. A data management system according to Claim 1, said storage system comprising a plurality of different data storage devices.

7. A data management system according to Claim 6, wherein data stored in said storage system is stored in different ones of said plurality of storage devices in accordance with a priority assigned to the data.

8. A data management system according to Claim 1, wherein the received data stored in said storage system is stored bitwise in the same file format received by said data forwarding unit.

9. A data management system according to Claim 1, wherein said data forwarding unit receives the data to be forwarded to said server system via a private network.

10. A data management system according to Claim 1, wherein said data forwarding unit is configured to communicate via the public network using only self-initiated communication sessions.

11. A data management system according to Claim 10, wherein communication sessions initiated by said data forwarding unit use an authenticated and secure protocol.

12. A data management system according to Claim 10, wherein said data forwarding unit initiates a communication session with the interface selected by said data forwarding unit when said data forwarding unit receives data to be forwarded to said server system.

13. A data management system according to Claim 10, wherein said data forwarding unit initiates a communication session with one of said plurality of interfaces selected by said data forwarding unit at a configured interval to forward status information to said information system.

14. A data management system according to Claim 10, wherein said information system sends configuration instructions to said data forwarding unit when said data forwarding unit has initiated a communication session with said server system.

15. A data management system according to Claim 10, wherein said information system sends programming instructions to said data forwarding unit when said data forwarding unit has initiated a communication session with said server system.

16. A data management system according to Claim 1, further comprising a display unit for displaying data stored in said storage system,

wherein said display unit obtains the data to be displayed via one of said plurality of interfaces identified by said information system in response to a request received from said display unit.

17. A data management system according to Claim 16, wherein said display unit is a web browser.

18. A data management system according to Claim 16, wherein the data obtained by said display unit is encrypted.

19. A data management system according to any one of Claims 1 to 18, further comprising a plurality of said server systems, wherein said plurality of server systems are physically remote from each other, and

wherein said data forwarding unit selects one of said plurality of interfaces of said plurality of server systems to send identification information on the received data in accordance with a set of predetermined rules.

20. A data management system according to Claim 19, wherein information on data managed by said data management system is updated in said information system of each of said plurality of server systems when a change to the information is made in any one of said information systems.

21. A data management system according to Claim 19, wherein data stored in said storage system of each of said plurality of server systems is periodically updated to reflect changes made to data stored in any one of said storage systems.